

HO-271
Oakhurst (Lardy House)
2460 McKendree Road, West Friendship

Facing south, this house appears to have originally been a 3 bay by 2 bay log house with a rear (north) ell. The house was later extended to the west by another two bays, forming an uneven five bays. The 3-bay long rear ell has an enclosed porch on the east side. A front porch extends across all these bays, supported by turned posts, with a balustrade and bracketed cornice. Since 1987, the house has been renovated and the easternmost two 2nd floor bays are now a Colonial-Revival style group of three windows with a fanlight above in a cross-gable style pediment. An interior chimney once appeared in the far right gable, but since renovation there are exterior chimneys in both ends. All sash appear to be 6/6. The door is flanked by 3-light sidelights.

There are two board-and-batten outbuildings behind the house, and two board-and-batten barns, one falling apart, to the southwest of the house. There is a pond to the southeast of the house.

The following excerpt is from Celia Holland's 1987 book, Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland:

"Also adjoining Hobbs Regulation is Oakhurst, once the home of James Hobbs, brother of Joseph. It later became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Musgrove, at the time consisting of 168 acres. Although the old structure still

exists and is undergoing restoration, the land on which it stands has been reduced to four acres, the remainder having been sold to adjoining neighbors."

Indeed, the 1878 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Howard County shows this house owned by an S. Hobbs, and several other houses on the west side of McKendree Road as also owned by members of the Hobbs family.

Party, were both born in 1741 and died in 1824. Henry Cornelius, Jr., was the next to inherit the homestead; he was followed by Charles A. Hobbs.

Four generations bearing this name, including the present owner, fell heir to the place. In 1945 Charles Hobbs IV married Shirley Ann Hager, daughter of Ross B. and Esther Mitchell Hager of Washington County. They still occupy the home and have five children, one of whom was christened Charles A. Hobbs V, and four grandchildren, including Charles A. Hobbs VI.

The Hobbs family is among the county's first families. Tradition has it that Dr. Charles Alexander Warfield, for whom the first Charles Hobbs was named, together with Capt. Thomas Hobbs and other local patriots, rode from this home to Annapolis to protest the landing of a cargo of tea aboard the *Peggy Stewart* and payment of the tax thereon, a protest that led to the burning of the vessel. The county and state are indebted to Captain Hobbs for a vivid eyewitness account of the incident, generally considered Maryland's first open act of rebellion against royal authority. It is commemorated today as "an exploit which outweighed the Boston Tea Party for daring and decisiveness."³ The Hobbs family were well represented in the war that followed as well as in the War of 1812.

The War Between the States brought unparalleled stress to Hobbs Regulation with regard to the issue of slavery, and the decision was made to grant the slaves their freedom before it became mandatory to do so. But according to Mrs. Shirley Hager Hobbs:

They were so miserable away from "home" they packed their belongings in a wagon and came back to Hobbs Regulation. Descendants of these slaves are still very much a part of the family. Nathan Caleb Smith, whose forebears were born, worked, and died here, was greatly instrumental in restoring the house and outbuildings. His pride in Hobbs Regulation is second only to that of the present occupants.⁴

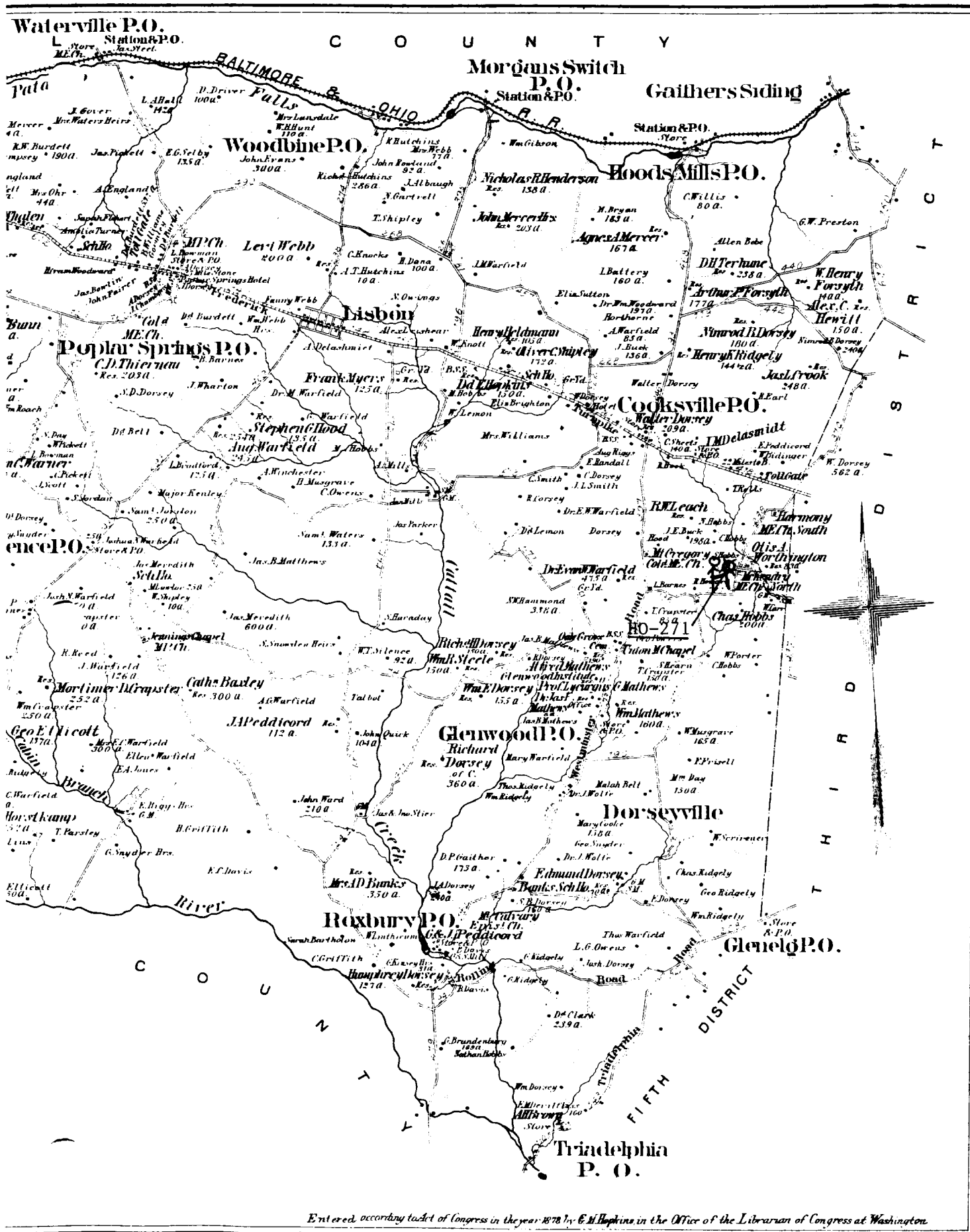
When returning to Cooksville by way of the Frederick Pike, one passes a number of Hobbs-related landmarks. Not the least of these is McKendree Church (now serving as the Sharon Baptist Church), on McKendree Road, which stands on land once a part of Hobbs Regulation. The first church, of log construction, was built by members who for several years had been meeting at Hobbs School House, now gone. The land having already been given the young congregation by Henry Hobbs, a deed to the original church, dated 18 November 1842, was made over to the elected trustees. During the War Between the States dissension among the members of McKendree's led to a division of the congregation until 1885, by which time its membership had grown to such an extent that the present church was built. In 1942 HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was dissolved, and the congregation elected to return to old McKendree, which ceased functioning in 1956 when the congregation merged with St. James Church on the Old Frederick Road near Slack's Corner. Although Sharon Baptist Church now owns the building, there are on the site two cemeteries, one used for years by McKendree Church, the other by Harmony. Henry Hobbs' grave is to be found in the latter.⁵

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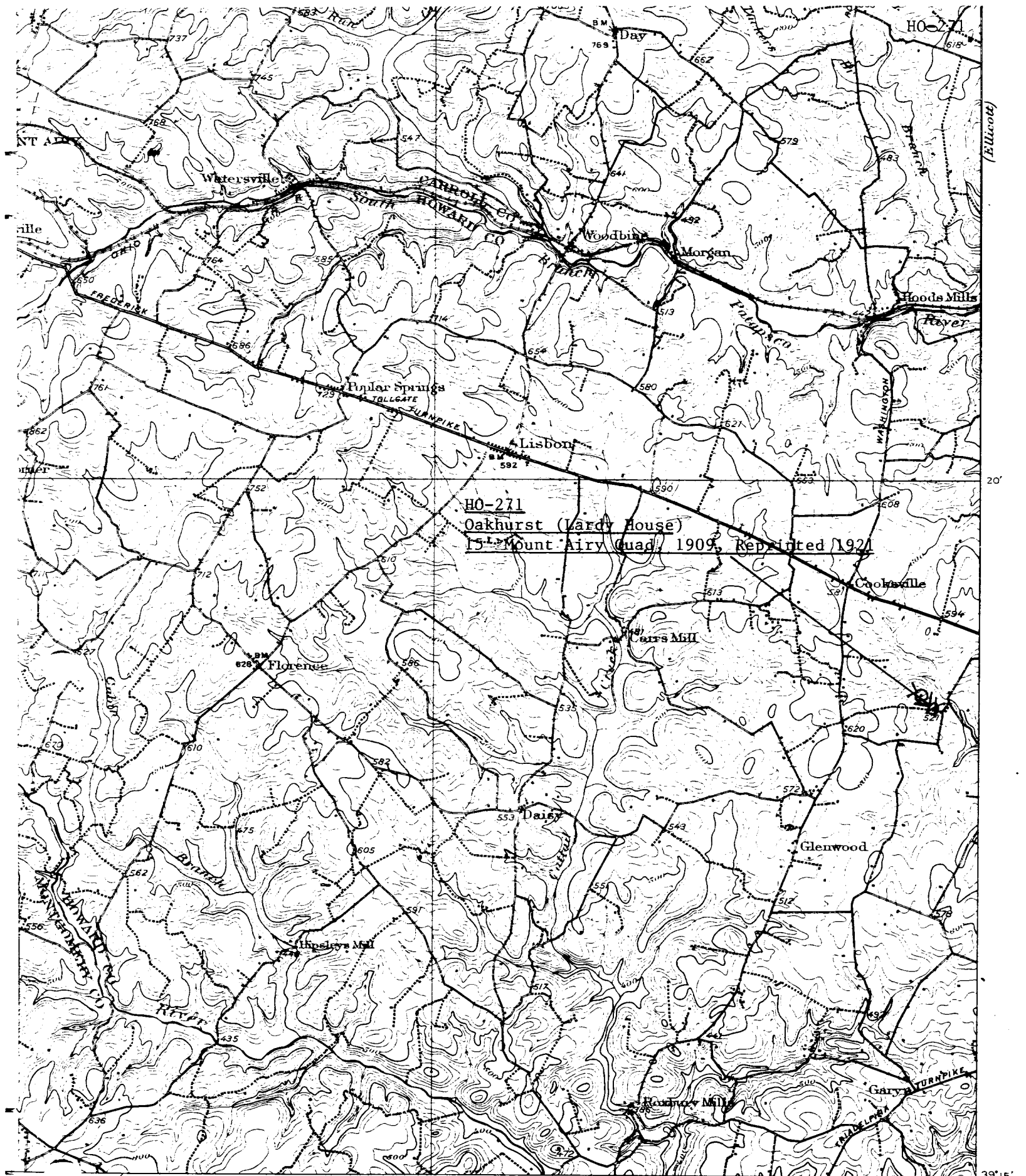


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Entered, according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

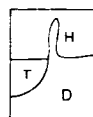


(Rockville)

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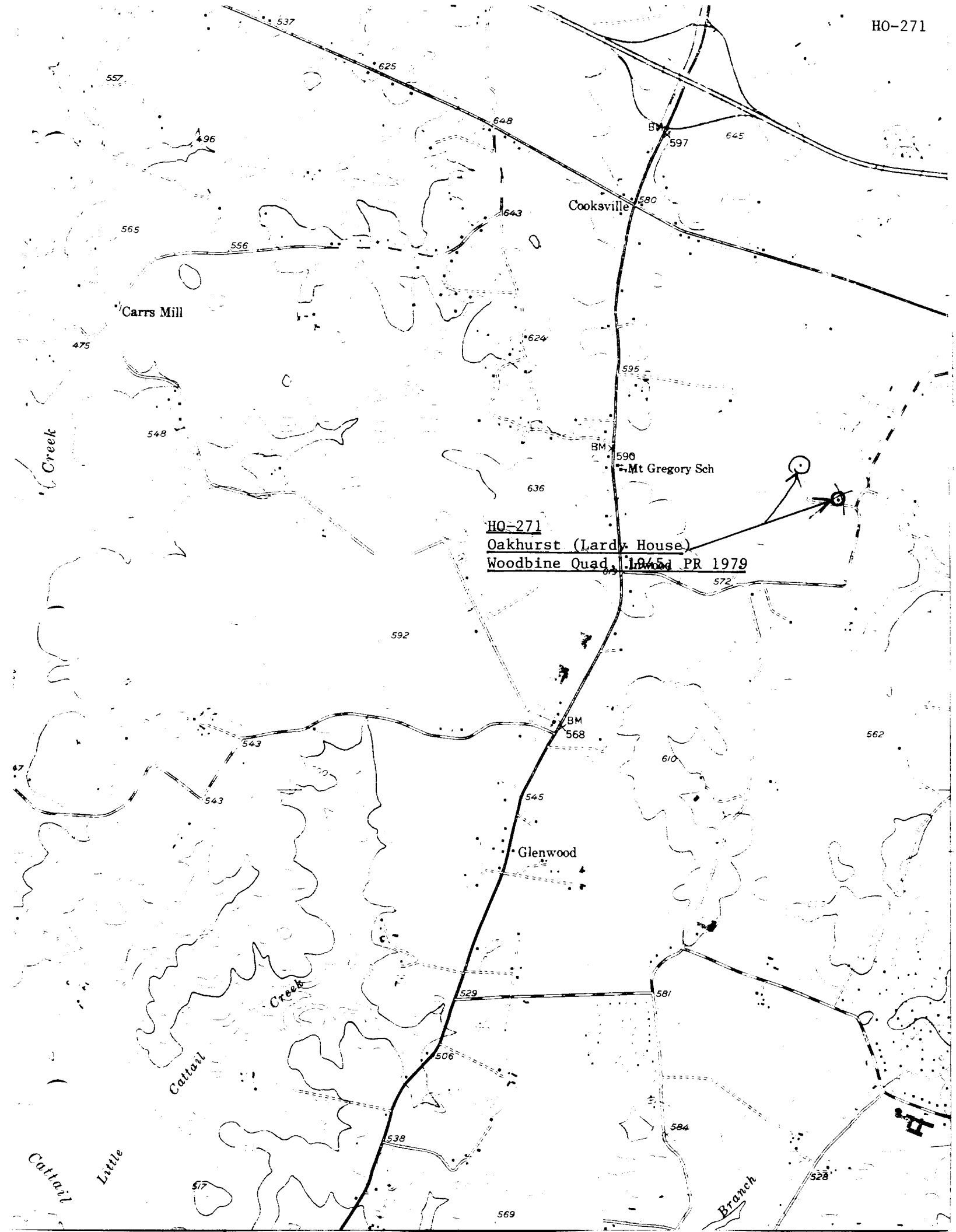


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Edition of March 1909, reprinted 1921.

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OAKHURST

East of the Old Westminster Road (Route 97), overlooking the Frederick Pike (Route 144), is Trusty Friend Farm, still another Hobbs place about which it has been said that at no time in its long history has it been sold for money. On 13 June 1797 Capt. Thomas Hobbs, brother of Henry Cornelius and James and penman of the highly acclaimed eyewitness account of the *Peggy Stewart* incident, patented Trusty Friend, a tract of 366 acres. Included in his patent were



TRUSTY FRIEND FARM